GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6169
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
DRAWING OF WATER FROM RIVERS BY PRIVATE COMPANIES
A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY;MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED;SUBODH ROY;SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of private companies granted permission for drawing of river water for commercial use;

(b) whether any conditions have been laid down for drawing of water from rivers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether allowing drawing of huge quantities of water from these rivers would adversely effect the farming community in the surrounding areas; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by the Government to safe-guard the interests of the farmers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) No permission has been granted to any private company for drawing of river water for commercial use by the Ministry of Water Resources. Water being a State Subject, planning, formulation, funding and execution of water resources projects including granting permission for drawing of river water for commercial use rests with the respective State Government.

(d) & (e) Utilization of water from rivers for irrigation is done through minor, medium and major irrigation/multipurpose projects. Minor schemes are cleared by the State Governments and major and medium (inter-state) projects are cleared by the Central Government after taking into account the techno-economic feasibility of the project as well as water availability.